

Message Text

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ACTION OES-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 ACDA-12 CIAE-00 INR-10 IO-13
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 EB-08 NRC-05 SOE-02 DODE-00
SS-15 SP-02 CEQ-01 PM-05 H-01 PA-01 USIA-06 /109 W
-----088044 131004Z /20

R 130856Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY VIENNA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5527
INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
USDOEHQ WASHDC
USDOEHQ GERMANTOWN

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 03 VIENNA 02365

USIAEA

DEPT PASS IO/SCT, S/AS AND AMBASSADOR KIRK, INR
DOE PASS AMMONS AND BERGOLD, IA

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: AORG, APER, IAEA, TECH, PARM, OVIP (EKLUND,SIGVARD)
SUBJECT: VISIT OF IAEA DIRGEN EKLUND TO WASHINGTON, D.C.

REF: VIENNA 1800 (PARA 16)

1. DDG HALL HAS INFORMED MISOFF THAT DIRGEN EKLUND PLANS
VISIT WASHINGTON, D.C. ON MARCH 27-28, 1978 AND THAT
EKLUND HAS BEEN IN TOUCH WITH AMBASSADOR SMITH RE THIS
VISIT. AMONG THE PRIMARY TOPICS DIRGEN EKLUND HOPES TO
DISCUSS DURING THIS VISIT ARE PENDING SENIOR STAFF
APPOINTMENTS, INCLUDING THE MATTER OF COMPETING U.S. AND
SOVIET CANDIDATES FOR THE POST OF DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF
RESEARCH AND LABORATORIES, AND POSSIBLY OTHERS, SUCH AS
SUCCESSOR TO ROMETSCH, DDG, DEPARTMENT OF SAFEGUARDS;
BRUNENKANT, DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF SCIENTIFIC AND
TECHNICAL INFORMATION, AND POLLIART, DIRECTOR, DIVISION
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OF NUCLEAR POWER AND REACTORS. (FOR THE LATTER POST, WE
UNDERSTAND THE LEADING CANDIDATES ARE FROM THE FRG AND
UK.)

2. RE MATTER OF DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF RESEARCH AND
LABORATORIES, DIRGEN HAD HOPED THAT U.S. AND SOVIETS
WOULD BE ABLE TO REACH SOME SORT OF AN "UNDERSTANDING"

REGARDING EITHER THE APPOINTMENT OF THE U.S. CANDIDATE (EUGENE FOWLER) OR THE SOVIET CANDIDATE(VITALIY FROLOV). AS NOTED REFTEL, SOVIETS HAVE TAKEN AN UNUSUALLY STRONG POSITION THAT FROLOV SHOULD BE APPOINTED TO THE POST AND HAVE TOLD DIRGEN EKLUND THAT THEY "EXPECT THIS TO OCCUR. SOVIETS HAVE DECLINED INTEREST IN HAVING FROLOV APPOINTED TO POST OF DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF LIFE SCIENCES, WHICH IS ALSO VACANT. FYI. FROLOV'S MAIN RESEARCH EXPERIENCE HAS BEEN IN DOSIMETRY AND, THEREFORE, ACTUALLY APPEARS BETTER QUALIFIED FOR THE LATTER POST. END FYI.

3. IT IS CLEAR TO MISSION THAT THE SOVIETS ARE SPECIFICALLY INTERESTED IN OCCUPYING THE POST OF DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF RESEARCH AND LABORATORIES RATHER THAN SIMPLY OCCUPYING A D-LEVEL POST FOR STATISTICAL OR OTHER PURPOSE. BECAUSE OF THIS, AND IN VIEW OF THE DETERMINATION WHICH THE SOVIETS HAVE SHOWN ON THE MATTER, THE MISSION HAS BEEN ATTEMPTING TO DETERMINE THE POSSIBLE MOTIVATION BEHIND THE STRONG SOVIET INTEREST IN THAT POST. IN THIS CONNECTION, WE SPECULATE THAT THERE IS A LINKAGE OF SOME SORT WITH THE INTERNATIONAL LABORATORY OF MARINE RADIOACTIVITY AT MONACO, WHICH REPORTS TO THE DIVISION OF RESEARCH AND LABORATORIES. THE BASIS FOR THEIR MAINTAINING SUCH A CONNECTION, HOWEVER, IS A MYSTERY TO US. WHATEVER MAY BE THE SOVIET MOTIVATION BEHIND THEIR DETERMINED EFFORT TO PLACE FROLOV IN THE CONFIDENTIAL

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DIVISION DIRECTOR POSITION, THEY SEEM TO BE BEHAVING AS THOUGH THE LOSS OF THAT POSITION WOULD BE A THREAT TO THEM OF SOME KIND.

4. THE MISSION CONTINUES TO BELIEVE THAT U.S. SHOULD STAND FIRMLY BEHIND FOWLER'S CANDIDACY AND THAT THE DIRGEN SHOULD BE SO INFORMED WHEN HE RAISES THE MATTER DURING HIS WASHINGTON VISIT. WE BELIEVE (BUT WE ARE NOT RPT NOT CERTAIN) THAT THE DIRGEN WOULD SELECT FOWLER IN ABSENCE OF USSR MAKING SUCH AN ISSUE OUT OF MATTER, IN WHICH CASE IT WOULD BE IMPORTANT TO STRENGTHEN HIS HAND. IF THE U.S. SHOWS ANY WEAKNESS RE SUPPORT FOR FOWLER, WE BELIEVE THE DIRGEN WOULD PROMPTLY CAVE IN AND APPOINT FROLOV. FYI. THE BETTING AMONG SOME SENIOR AMERICANS AND OTHERS IN THE AGENCY SECRETARIAT IS THAT FROLOV WILL ULTIMATELY GET THE APPOINTMENT, BECAUSE THEY FEEL THAT EKLUND TENDS TO BOW MORE OFTEN THAN NOT TO SOVIET WISHES. END FYI. ACCORDINGLY, WE BELIEVE OUR POSITION SHOULD BE:

A. THE U.S. STRONGLY FAVORS ROTATION OF NATIONALITIES IN THE D-LEVEL POSTS IN THE DIVISIONS OF LIFE SCIENCES

AND RESEARCH AND LABORATORIES. (DIRGEN HIMSELF HAS USED THIS SAME ARGUMENT FOR OTHER POSTS IN SECRETARIAT AND IT SHOULD, THEREFORE, APPEAL TO HIM.) MOREOVER, BOTH OF THESE DIVISIONS DEAL STRICTLY WITH SCIENTIFIC MATTERS AND SHOULD NOT RPT NOT, THEREFORE, BE OF SIGNIFICANT POLITICAL CONCERN TO ANY MEMBER STATE.

B. U.S. BELIEVES FOWLER IS WELL SUITED AND HIGHLY QUALIFIED TO OCCUPY POST OF DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF RESEARCH AND LABORATORIES. HE HAS SHOWN THAT HE IS A GOOD

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MANAGER OF SCIENTIFIC PROGRAMS AND HE HAS THE CONFIDENCE AND RESPECT OF DDG KAKIHANA AS WELL AS OTHER STAFF MEMBERS IN THAT DIVISION.

C. U.S. CONSIDERED A PROPOSAL MADE INFORMALLY BY SOVIET AMBASSADOR EROFEEV TO AMBASSADOR STONE JUST BEFORE LATTER'S DEPARTURE, THAT THE U.S. GO ALONG AT THIS TIME WITH APPOINTMENT OF FROLOV FOR TWO YEARS ONLY, AFTER WHICH SOVIETS WOULD GO ALONG WITH APPOINTMENT OF FOWLER. THIS WAS NOT RPT NOT FEASIBLE BECAUSE U.S. LEGISLATION UNDER WHICH FOWLER WAS TRANSFERRED FROM U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY TO IAEA PERMITS TRANSFERS NORMALLY UP TO FIVE YEARS, AND THIS PERIOD WILL BE COMPLETED IN EARLY 1980. TO GO ALONG WITH ARRANGEMENT PROPOSED BY EROFEEV WOULD THUS BE UNFAIR TO FOWLER AND INCONSISTENT WITH OUR BELIEF THAT THIS D-LEVEL POST BE ROTATED AMONG DIFFERENT NATIONALITIES.

D. U.S. WOULD NOT RPT NOT OBJECT TO APPOINTMENT OF FROLOV AS DIRECTOR OF DIVISION OF LIFE SCIENCES AND WE BELIEVE DIRGEN SHOULD ATTEMPT FORCEFULLY TO PERSUADE SOVIETS TO GO ALONG WITH THIS APPROACH TO RESOLVING
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PROBLEM.

5. FOLLOWING COMMENTS RELATE TO REPORT OF DISCUSSIONS WITH SOVIETS ON THIS MATTER REPORTED PARA 16 REFTEL:
(A) MISSION IS UNAWARE OF ANY "PREVIOUS AGREEMENT" WITH AMBASSADOR STONE AS MENTIONED BY AMBASSADOR EROFEEV. IN FACT, JUST PRIOR TO HIS DEPARTURE, AMBASSADOR STONE PHONED AMBASSADOR EROFEEV IN RESPONSE TO LATTER'S PROPOSAL MENTIONED PARA 4(C) ABOVE AND INFORMED HIM OF OUR STRONG SUPPORT FOR FOWLER AND EXPLAINED WHY IT WAS NOT RPT NOT FEASIBLE TO GO ALONG WITH HIS PROPOSAL.
(B) MOROKHOV'S NEGATIVE REFERENCE TO FILLING POST ON BASIS OF "PERSONAL INTERESTS" WAS ALSO PUZZLING SINCE MOROKHOV LATER IN SAME DISCUSSION STRESSED THAT FROLOV HAD ALREADY LEFT HIS INSTITUTE IN EXPECTATION OF APPOINTMENT. WE ALSO UNDERSTAND AMBASSADOR EROFEEV, IN DISCUSSING HIS PROPOSAL WITH AMBASSADOR STONE, INDICATED SPECIFICALLY INTER ALIA THAT THERE WERE "PERSONAL" CONSIDERATIONS INVOLVED WHICH MADE IT EXTREMELY IMPORTANT FOR FROLOV TO GET THE APPOINTMENT. (C) WHILE IT IS TRUE THAT U.S. DID NOT RPT NOT OBJECT WHEN SOVIETS LAST FILLED THAT POST IN 1973 (WITH SHALNOV REPLACING ANOTHER SOVIET NATIONAL NAMED FERRONSKY), PERHAPS, IN RETROSPECT, WE SHOULD HAVE DONE SO. THE U.S., HOWEVER, DOES NOT RPT NOT NORMALLY OBJECT TO THE DIRGEN'S CHOICE OF CANDIDATES FOR SENIOR APPOINTMENTS UNLESS THERE ARE SPECIFIC GROUNDS FOR DOING SO. MOREOVER, AT THE TIME, THE U.S. HAD NO RPT NO PARTICULAR INTEREST IN THAT POST. IN ANY EVENT, FACT THAT U.S. DID NOT RPT NOT OBJECT TO THE SOVIET CANDIDATE IN 1973 CAN HARDLY BE CONSTRUED TO MEAN THAT THE U.S. AGREED, TACITLY OR OTHERWISE, THAT THE SOVIETS HAD A "CLAIM" ON THIS POST FOR ALL TIME. (D) AMBASSADOR EROFEEV ALSO ATTEMPTED TO MAKE A CASE THAT, SINCE THE
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SOVIET CANDIDATE HAD BEEN NOMINATED FIRST, HE WAS SOMEHOW TO BE GIVEN PRIORITY AS A RESULT. THE LOGIC OF THIS ARGUMENT ESCAPES US. (E) WE TAKE ISSUE WITH MOROKHOV'S SO-CALLED "TRADITION" TO BE MAINTAINED, THAT WHEN NO RPT NO OBJECTION IS RAISED ABOUT A CANDIDATE, IT SHOULD

BE UNDERSTOOD THAT SUCH CANDIDATE WOULD NOT RPT NOT BE
OPPOSED. WE ARE UNAWARE OF ANY SUCH "TRADITION" OR
PRACTICE, AND MOREOVER, WE SERIOUSLY QUESTION THE
DESIRABILITY OR PRACTICABILITY OF SUCH AN ARRANGEMENT.
TO THE BEST OF OUR KNOWLEDGE, WE HAVE NOT RPT NOT BEEN
ASKED BY ANYONE WHETHER OR NOT WE HAVE ANY OBJECTION TO
THE SOVIET CANDIDATE, ALTHOUGH WE HAVE TOLD THE DIRGEN
AND OTHERS THAT WE STRONGLY FAVOR AND SUPPORT THE U.S.
CANDIDATE. THIS APPARENTLY HAS BEEN CONSTRUED TO MEAN
THAT THE U.S. WOULD OBJECT IF FROLOV WERE OFFERED THE
POST. FYI. THE QUESTION OF OBJECTION OR NON-
OBJECTION AND WHAT THAT MEANS COULD ALSO BE USED
IN SUPPORT OF FOWLER'S CANDIDACY, I.E., WE WERE NOT RPT
NOT INFORMED OF ANY SOVIET OBJECTION TO FOWLER WHEN WE
NOMINATED HIM IN 1976 WHEN A VACANCY NOTICE (LATER
CANCELED) WAS ISSUED FOR THAT POST. WHILE SHALNOV
DECIDED TO STAY AND THUS FOWLER'S CANDIDACY AT THAT TIME
BECAME MOOT, LACK OF SOVIET OBJECTION TO FOWLER'S
INITIAL NOMINATION, ACCORDING TO MOROKHOV'S ARGUMENT,
COULD BE TAKEN AS TACIT ACQUIESCENCE TO HIS CANDIDACY AND
THE U.S. INTENTION TO FILL THAT POST. END FYI. (F) SOVI-
ET COUNT OF 90 POSTS FILLED BY U.S. NATIONALS MUST IN-
CLUDE SEVERAL COST-FREE EXPERTS UNDER THE U.S. SAFE-
GUARDS SUPPORT PROGRAM AND OTHER STAFF WHICH ARE NOT RPT
NOT CONSIDERED SUBJECT TO GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION.
SIMILAR INFLATED RESULT COULD BE OBTAINED BY COUNTING ALL
SOVIET INTERPRETERS AND TRANSLATORS (WHICH ALSO ARE NOT

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RPT NOT SUBJECT TO GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION). MOREOVER,

SOVIETS HAVE NO RPT NO BASIS IN ANY EVENT FOR COMPLAINT
AS LONG AS U.S. IS BELOW ITS "QUOTA" OR "GUIDELINE."
AGENCY STAFF LIST FOR JANUARY 1, 1978 SHOWS U.S. WITH 79
(19.8) AND SOVIETS WITH 38 (9.5) OF POSTS SUBJECT TO
GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION. COMPARABLE FIGURES FOR MID-
1972 WERE 51 (17.8) AND 22 (7.7), RESPECTIVELY, WHICH
SHOWS THAT THE SOVIETS HAVE ACTUALLY INCREASED THEIR
SHARE PROPORTIONALLY SLIGHTLY MORE THAN THE U.S.

6. FYI. MISSION UNDERSTANDS THAT DIRGEN HAS EXTENDED
SHALNOV AGAIN UNTIL JUNE 1978. END FYI. LABOWITZ

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Draft Date: 13 mar 1978
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Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
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TAGS: AORG, APER, TECH, PARM, OVIP, IAEA, (EKLUND, SIGVARD)
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